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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

A REPORT BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY PREPARED IN COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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March 84-3

SUMMARY: Total unemployment numbered 24,370 in mid-March, a decrease of 1,320 from mid-February. The rate dropped from 5.1 to 4.8 percent. A year ago the rate was 7.1 percent. Nationally the rates were 8.1 percent in March, 8.4 percent in February and 10.8 percent a year ago. New Hampshire had the lowest rate of any state in February.

Nine labor market areas experienced unemployment decreases ranging from 430 in the Salem area to 40 in the Littleton area. Two labor market areas, Manchester and Claremont had unemployment increases of 130 each. The highest rate was 7.4 percent in the Littleton area and the lowest rate was 3.4 percent in the Nashua area.

Nonagricultural employment increased by 1,900 from February to March with gains in both manufacturing and nonmanufacturing. Recalls and expansion occurred in machinery, electrical products and metal products. Some new jobs were created in services relative to hotel and convention facilities and some workers were hired to help process tax units on a temporary basis.

Per Capita Data for 1983-New Hampshire among the fifty states ranked first in growth of per capita income from 1982 to 1983 according to data released by the U.S. Department of Commerce. New Hampshire averaged $11,620 per capital income in 1983, an 8.4 percent increase from 1982. The national average was $11,675 at a 5.2 percent increase from 1982. Other New England states had the following per capita income and percentage growth: Connecticut $14,826 (7.4 percent), Maine $9,619 (6.5 percent), Massachusetts $13,089 (7.7 percent), Rhode Island $11,504 (7.0 percent), and Vermont $10,036 (5.9 percent).

Manchester Economic Changes-Total unemployment increased by 130 workers from mid-February to mid-March 1984. The latest total of 4,320 represents 4.8 percent of the civilian labor force. The rate for February was 4.7 percent and a year ago 6.8 percent. Nonagricultural employment increased by 500 with gains in manufacturing and nonmanufacturing.

Nashua Economic Changes- Total unemployment decreased by 200 from mid-February to mid-March and the latest total of 3,040 represents 3.4 percent of the civilian labor force. The rate for February was 3.7 percent and a year ago 5.7 percent. Nashua is one of the metropolitan areas with the lowest rates in the country in February ranking third with only Dallas-Fort Worth Texas and Bryan-College Station Texas, with lower rates of 3.6 percent.

Nonagricultural employment increased by 650 with gains in manufacturing and nonmanufacturing. Machinery and electrical products continued to show growth with 250 more jobs.

New Hampshire Labor Force, Total Employment and Unemployment and Nonagricultural
Wage and Salary Employment as of the Middle of the Month

Industry	State					Manchester Labor Market Area					Nashua Labor Market Area				
	Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous		Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous		Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous	
	Mar. 1984	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983	Month	Year	Mar. 1984	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983	Month	Year	Mar. 1984	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983	Month	Year
1. Civilian labor force*	505,050	501,770	485,010	3,280	20,040	89,270	88,230	85,650	1,040	3,620	89,400	88,270	84,150	1,130	5,250
2. Unemployment	24,370	25,690	34,320	-1,320	-9,950	4,320	4,190	5,850	130	-1,530	3,040	3,240	4,800	-200	-1,760
Percent of labor force	4.8	5.1	7.1	xxx	xxx	4.8	4.7	6.8	xxx	xxx	3.4	3.7	5.7	xxx	xxx
3. Employment total	480,680	476,080	450,690	4,600	29,990	84,950	84,040	79,800	910	5,150	86,360	85,030	79,350	1,330	7,010
4. Persons involved in labor disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonagri. wage & salary**	420,300	418,400	394,600	1,900	25,700	80,450	79,950	76,500	500	3,950	73,900	73,250	68,450	650	5,450
Manufacturing	118,550	117,500	109,900	1,050	8,650	16,950	16,800	16,300	150	650	35,000	34,800	31,650	200	3,350
Durable goods	77,250	76,200	70,300	1,050	6,950	9,800	9,650	9,000	150	800	28,450	28,250	25,150	200	3,300
Lumber & wood prods.	4,900	4,900	4,450	0	450										
Furniture & fixtures	1,500	1,450	1,400	50	100										
Stone & clay prods.	2,700	2,650	2,300	50	400										
Primary metal prods.	4,000	3,950	3,600	50	400										
Fabricated metal prods.	7,250	7,250	6,800	0	450										
Machinery (exc. elec.)	22,650	22,250	21,400	400	1,250	6,400	6,250	5,900	150	500	21,450	21,200	18,450	250	3,000
Electrical prods.	24,050	23,650	20,750	400	3,300										
Miscellaneous prods.	1,850	1,850	1,800	0	50										
Other durables	8,350	8,250	7,800	100	550	3,400	3,400	3,100	0	300	7,000	7,050	6,700	-50	300
Nondurable goods	41,300	41,300	39,600	0	1,700	7,150	7,150	7,300	0	-150	6,550	6,550	6,500	0	50
Food & kindred prods.	3,000	2,950	2,700	50	300										
Textile mill prods.	4,350	4,350	3,800	0	550										
Apparel	3,050	3,000	2,600	50	450	1,950	1,950	1,950	0	0					
Paper & allied prods.	5,500	5,500	5,300	0	200										
Print., pub. & allied	6,500	6,500	6,750	0	-250										
Leather & lea. prods.	8,600	8,700	9,100	-100	-500										
Other nondurables	10,300	10,300	9,350	0	950	5,200	5,200	5,350	0	-150					
Nonmanufacturing	301,750	300,900	284,700	850	17,050	63,500	63,150	60,200	350	3,300	38,900	38,450	36,800	450	2,100
Construction (inc. min.)	22,300	22,400	20,250	-100	2,050	3,400	3,400	2,800	0	600	2,650	2,600	2,350	50	300
Trans., comm. & util.	15,400	15,350	14,850	50	550	5,050	5,000	4,900	50	150	2,050	2,050	1,950	0	100
Trade	94,900	94,900	87,500	0	7,400	21,400	21,200	20,100	200	1,300	14,250	14,050	13,200	200	1,050
Fin., ins. & real estate	22,050	21,900	20,900	150	1,150	6,300	6,300	6,200	0	100	2,350	2,300	2,100	50	250
Service industry & other	86,450	86,050	79,450	400	7,000	18,750	18,600	17,650	150	1,100	12,250	12,100	11,600	150	650
Government	60,650	60,300	61,750	350	-1,100	8,600	8,650	8,550	-50	50	5,350	5,350	5,600	0	-250
Federal	11,800	11,750	11,700	50	100	2,000	1,950	1,900	50	100	700	700	800	0	-100
State	15,700	15,750	15,650	-50	50	900	900	900	0	0	250	250	250	0	0
Local	33,150	32,800	34,400	350	-1,250	5,700	5,800	5,750	-100	-50	4,400	4,400	4,550	0	-150

* By place of residence
** By place of establishment
Benchmark March 1983

Labor Disputes:

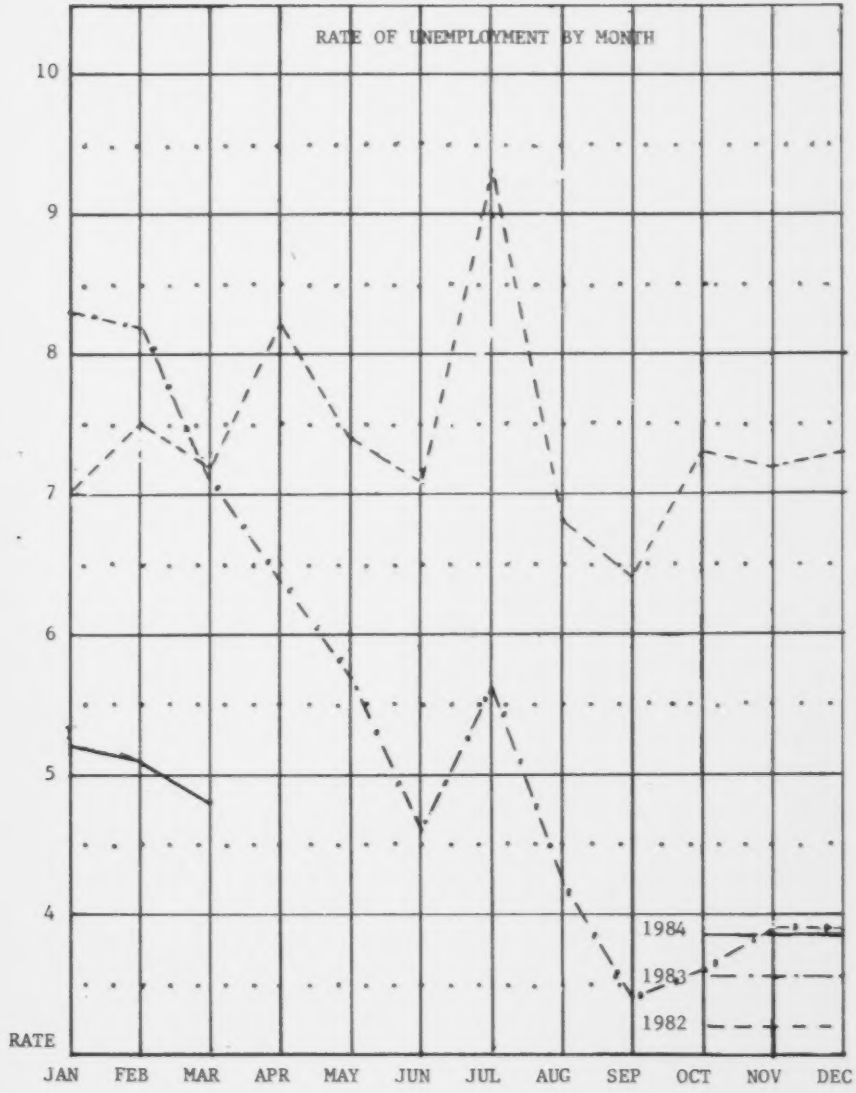
Total Unemployment and Labor Force by Labor Market Area (LMA) and County

Area	Unemployment*						Numerical Change From Previous		Civilian Labor Force			Numerical Change From Previous	
	March 1984 Number	March 1984 Percent	February 1984 Number	February 1984 Percent	March 1983 Number	March 1983 Percent	Month	Year	March 1984	February 1984	March 1983	Month	Year
United States**	9,057	8.1	9,407	8.4	11,879	10.8	-350	-2,822	111,828	111,368	109,873	460	1,955
New Hampshire	24,370	4.8	25,690	5.1	34,320	7.1	-1,320	-9,950	505,050	501,770	485,010	3,280	20,040
Labor Market Area													
Berlin	1,370	7.0	1,450	7.4	2,140	11.3	-80	-770	19,450	19,550	18,960	-100	490
Claremont	1,720	4.6	1,590	4.3	2,820	7.9	130	-1,100	37,110	37,360	35,900	-250	1,210
Concord	2,040	4.5	2,380	5.3	2,840	6.5	-340	-800	45,220	45,330	43,450	-110	1,770
Dover	3,090	6.9	3,180	7.1	3,750	8.6	-90	-660	45,080	44,490	43,750	590	1,330
Keene	1,480	3.9	1,650	4.3	2,220	6.0	-170	-740	38,330	37,970	36,800	360	1,530
Laconia	2,090	5.0	2,220	5.3	3,350	8.0	-130	-1,260	42,190	41,910	41,620	280	570
Littleton	1,090	7.4	1,130	7.7	1,300	9.2	-40	-210	14,670	14,730	14,120	-60	550
Manchester	4,320	4.8	4,190	4.7	5,850	6.8	130	-1,530	89,270	88,230	85,650	1,040	3,620
Nashua	3,040	3.4	3,240	3.7	4,800	5.7	-200	-1,760	89,400	88,270	84,150	1,130	5,250
Portsmouth	2,670	4.6	2,770	4.8	2,960	5.5	-100	-290	58,070	57,470	53,840	600	4,230
N.H. - Lawrence-Haverhill SMSA***	1,460	5.6	1,890	7.1	2,290	8.6	-430	-830	26,260	26,460	26,770	-200	-510
County													
Belknap	1,150	5.3	1,210	5.9	1,830	8.6	-60	-680	21,590	21,440	21,320	150	270
Carroll	780	5.8	750	5.7	1,140	8.7	30	-360	13,530	13,430	13,160	100	370
Cheshire	1,410	4.1	1,560	5.3	2,110	6.4	-150	-700	34,410	34,090	33,080	320	1,330
Coos	1,360	7.9	1,480	9.6	1,950	11.6	-120	-590	17,220	17,360	16,760	-140	460
Grafton	1,690	5.0	1,800	5.0	2,370	7.2	-110	-680	34,030	34,220	32,840	-190	1,190
Hillsborough	6,140	3.9	6,300	4.4	9,500	6.3	-160	-3,360	159,040	157,170	151,360	1,870	7,680
Merrimack	2,390	4.6	2,830	5.7	3,350	6.7	-440	-960	51,560	51,730	49,670	-170	1,890
Rockingham	5,600	4.9	6,020	4.8	6,780	6.2	-420	-1,180	113,910	113,090	108,580	820	5,330
Strafford	2,810	6.9	2,900	6.9	3,410	8.7	-90	-600	40,520	40,000	39,340	520	1,180
Sullivan	1,040	5.4	840	5.8	1,880	9.9	200	-840	19,240	19,240	18,900	0	340

* Based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics "43 Step Method" Handbook adjusted to the Current Population Survey estimates.

** In thousands, not seasonally adjusted.

*** New Hampshire portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, Massachusetts Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes Salem and six small towns.



AREA DEFINITIONS

Manchester Labor Market Area includes the city of Manchester and towns of Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Chester, Derry, Goffstown, Hooksett, Londonderry, New Boston, Raymond and Weare.

Nashua Labor Market Area is located in the southern section of Hillsborough County and includes the City of Nashua and the towns of Amherst, Brookline, Greenville, Hollis, Litchfield, Lyndeboro, Mason, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, New Ipswich, Pelham, Temple and Wilton.

U. S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Item	1984	1983	1982	1981
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers				
Current month - March	303.3			
Percent change from year ago	3.5			
Year average		297.4	288.6	272.3
Percent increase each year		3.0	6.0	10.2
All Urban Consumers				
Current month - March	307.3			
Percent change from year ago	4.7			
Year average		298.4	289.1	272.4
Percent increase each year		3.2	6.1	10.4

Per Capita Income by State in 1983 and
Percentage Change from 1982

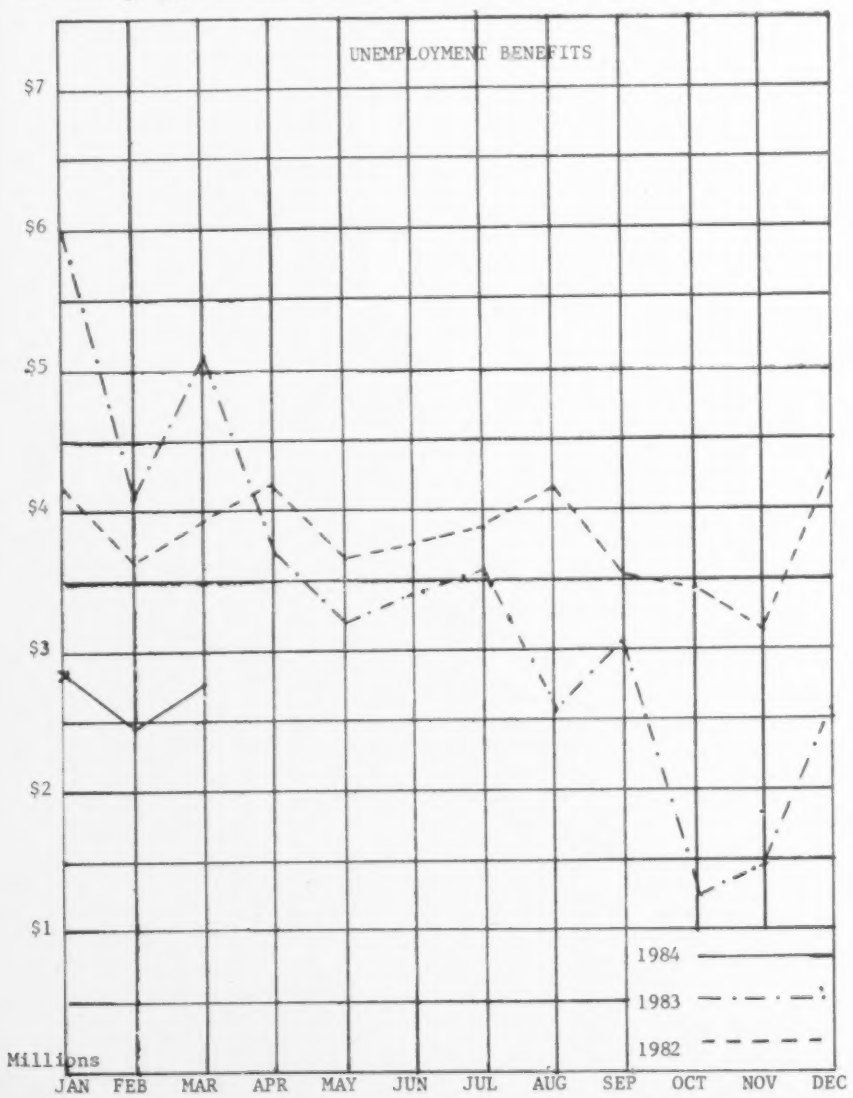
Rank	State	Income	Percentage Change from 1982	Rank	State	Income	Percentage Change from 1982
1	Alaska	$16,820	1.3	26	Oklahoma	$11,187	-0.5
2	Connecticut	14,826	7.4	27	Wisconsin	11,132	3.8
3	New Jersey	14,057	6.7	28	Iowa	11,048	2.7
4	California	13,239	4.9	29	Nebraska	10,940	2.8
5	New York	13,146	6.1	30	Oregon	10,920	6.7
6	Massachusetts	13,089	7.7	31	Missouri	10,790	5.9
7	Maryland	12,994	6.2	32	Arizona	10,719	6.5
8	Illinois	12,626	4.4	33	Indiana	10,567	5.7
9	Colorado	12,580	3.1	34	Louisiana	10,406	1.9
10	Nevada	12,516	4.1	35	Georgia	10,283	7.4
11	Delaware	12,442	5.4	36	Vermont	10,036	5.9
12	Kansas	12,285	4.8	37	Montana	9,999	4.8
13	Hawaii	12,101	4.2	38	South Dakota	9,704	1.3
14	Washington	12,051	5.1	39	North Carolina	9,656	6.7
15	Wyoming	11,969	-2.0	40	Maine	9,619	6.5
16	Virginia	11,835	7.0	41	New Mexico	9,560	4.7
17	Texas	11,702	2.4	42	Tennessee	9,362	5.2
	US Average	11,675	5.2				
18	Minnesota	11,666	4.6	43	Idaho	9,342	4.5
19	New Hampshire	11,620	8.4	44	Alabama	9,235	6.8
20	Florida	11,592	6.3	45	Kentucky	9,162	3.0
21	Michigan	11,574	5.8	46	Arkansas	9,040	7.3
22	Pennsylvania	11,510	5.3	47	Utah	9,031	2.4
23	Rhode Island	11,504	7.0	48	South Carolina	8,954	5.7
24	North Dakota	11,350	4.8	49	West Virginia	8,937	2.0
25	Ohio	11,254	5.5	50	Mississippi	8,072	4.5

Source: US Commerce Department

Weekly Claims Filed During March 1984
Classified by Local Office

Area	Unemployment Compensation		U.C. State Workers (Only)		UC Local Government		Servicemen UCX (Only)		U.C. Federal Employees No UI	
	Init.	Cont.	Int.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.	Int.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.
All Offices	4,650	25,211	15	90	7	67	22	202	17	132
Berlin	337	1,657	1	7	1	4	1	13	1	5
Claremont	331	920	0	0	0	2	1	6	0	4
Concord	253	2,751	2	40	2	6	0	2	0	2
Dover	805	4,400	3	14	0	14	4	53	6	49
Keene	178	1,169	0	6	0	0	0	9	0	1
Laconia	283	2,049	2	17	0	2	2	20	2	5
Lebanon	83	553	0	0	1	4	0	2	0	4
Littleton	205	1,142	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	1
Manchester	783	3,590	3	3	0	0	3	7	2	12
Nashua	390	1,237	1	1	0	0	2	5	1	7
Portsmouth	570	2,907	2	2	0	5	5	20	3	19
Salem	125	584	0	0	2	30	0	0	1	4
Liable Interstate	307	2,252	1	0	1	0	3	59	1	19

The average payment for a week of total unemployment was $106.07



Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance End Of Month

March $72,398,942.03

Net contributions received during month: March

$87,937.09

Net benefits paid during month: March

$2,754,035.83

Interest Received:

$-0-

AVERAGE EARNINGS AND HOURS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

New Hampshire

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March 1984	Feb 1984	March 1983	March 1984	Feb 1984	March 1983	March 1984	Feb 1984	March 1983
All manufacturing	$307.69	$313.29	$288.15	39.6	40.9	39.8	$7.77	$7.66	$7.24
Durable goods	326.03	331.89	301.90	40.4	41.8	40.2	8.07	7.94	7.51
Lumber & wood prods.	229.52	243.20	221.84	37.2	40.0	37.6	6.17	6.08	5.90
Furniture & fixtures	270.57	259.24	254.13	39.1	37.9	39.4	6.92	6.84	6.45
Stone & clay prods.	298.15	327.99	296.49	40.4	43.5	41.7	7.38	7.54	7.11
Primary metal prods.	357.96	362.43	321.32	43.6	44.8	42.9	8.21	8.09	7.49
Fab. metal prods.	292.99	304.38	303.89	38.5	41.3	40.9	7.61	7.37	7.43
Mach. (exc. elec.)	376.28	377.98	338.35	43.4	43.9	42.4	8.67	8.61	7.98
Electrical prods.	320.77	332.52	291.46	38.6	40.7	38.3	8.31	8.17	7.61
Miscellaneous prods.	248.09	255.42	223.82	42.7	43.0	38.0	5.81	5.94	5.89
Other durables	354.32	341.09	323.58	41.2	40.8	40.6	8.60	8.36	7.97
Nondurable goods	277.68	282.89	266.95	38.3	39.4	39.2	7.25	7.18	6.81
Food & kindred prods.	362.87	355.02	396.06	39.4	39.8	42.0	9.21	8.92	9.43
Textile mill prods.	260.90	258.24	245.83	40.2	40.1	40.3	6.49	6.44	6.10
Apparel	190.55	206.50	197.22	34.9	38.1	38.0	5.46	5.42	5.19
Paper & allied prods.	420.73	418.53	342.04	46.8	46.4	43.1	8.99	9.02	8.40
Print., pub. & allied	295.14	293.96	278.78	39.3	39.3	39.1	7.51	7.48	7.13
Leather & lea. prods.	168.64	183.89	186.52	31.7	34.5	35.8	5.32	5.33	5.21
Footwear	157.99	174.08	176.29	31.1	34.0	35.4	5.08	5.12	4.98
Other nondurables	307.32	316.74	298.13	39.4	40.4	40.1	7.80	7.84	7.31

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 51

Total Production Workers: 84,699

Firms Reporting: 297

Manchester Labor Market Area

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March 1984	Feb 1984	March 1983	March 1984	Feb 1984	March 1983	March 1984	Feb 1984	March 1983
All manufacturing	$284.26	$290.66	$273.08	37.8	39.6	38.9	$7.52	$7.34	$7.02
Durable goods	299.89	302.15	293.88	38.3	39.6	39.5	7.83	7.63	7.44
Mach. & elec. prods.	307.28	318.24	300.75	38.7	40.8	40.1	7.94	7.80	7.50
Other durables	284.61	274.50	282.21	37.4	37.5	38.5	7.61	7.32	7.33
Nondurable goods	263.78	276.41	249.56	37.1	39.6	38.1	7.11	6.98	6.55
Textiles & apparel	245.75	247.90	234.04	38.7	39.6	39.4	6.35	6.26	5.94
Other nondurables	270.83	287.50	255.98	36.5	39.6	37.7	7.42	7.26	6.79

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 49

Total Production Workers: 12,320

Firms Reporting: 37

Nashua Labor Market Area

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	March 1984	Feb 1984	March 1983	March 1984	Feb 1984	March 1983	March 1984	Feb 1984	March 1983
All manufacturing	$374.10	$382.82	$350.99	40.4	42.3	41.1	$9.26	$9.05	$8.54
Durable goods	375.84	388.20	354.73	40.5	42.8	41.2	9.28	9.07	8.61
Mach. & elec. prods.	407.23	419.87	387.39	40.4	42.8	41.3	10.08	9.81	9.38
Other durables	302.25	314.15	290.69	40.9	42.8	41.0	7.39	7.34	7.09
Nondurable goods	365.24	362.30	336.98	39.7	40.3	40.6	9.20	8.99	8.30

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 47

Total Production Workers: 20,401

Firms Reporting: 59